

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03977 261243Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 /108 W
----- 074173

R 260925Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3977

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE SPRING SESSIONS

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED APRIL 24 AFTER MONTH-
LONG SESSION BEGINNING MARCH 25. SENATE ADJOURNED
FOLLOWING DAY AFTER SESSION OF SIMILAR LENGTH.

2. ACCORDING EMBASSY COUNT, ASSEMBLY APPROVED EIGHTEEN
BILLS DURING SESSION. MAJOR LEGISLATION INCLUDED CON-
STITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL (ISLAMABAD 3884 AND 3958)
WHICH, INTER QFYAJ/843MOVES LEGAL OBSTACLE TO APPOINTMENT
OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES IN CENTER AND
PROVINCES. OTHER SIGNIFICANT BILLS ADOPTED INCLUDED ONE
DELIMITING CONSTITUENCIES FOR NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, WHEN
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP WILL BE RAISED FROM CURRENT 144
SEATS TO 210, AND ANOTHER BILL PROVIDING FOR UPDATING 1969
ELECTORAL ROLLS. NUMBER OF BILLS AMENDED EXISTING
LEGISLATION, GIVING RISE TO SOME COMPLAINTS OF TOO HASTY
PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF BADLY DRAFTED BILLS SUB-
MITTED BY GOVERNMENT.

3. ATTENDANCE WAS SPOTTY AS IT WAS DURING TWO-MONTH
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WINTER SESSION ENDING FEBRUARY 15. HOWEVER, ABOUT 120

OF 146 MEMBERS TURNED UP FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
VOTE AFTER PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY URGED MAXIMUM
ATTENDANCE BY HIS PARTY FOLLOWERS.

4. SENATE MOVED AT SLOWER, DELIBERATE PACE SET BY CHAIR-
MAN HABIBULLAN KHAN. OPPOSITION IN SENATE FREQUENTLY
SOUGHT TO REFER LEGISLATION TO VARIOUS STANDING COMMITTEES,
USUALLY WITHOUT SUCCESS. ALTHOUGH ENJOYING FEW POWERS,
SENATE APPEARS TO BE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL
ROLE IN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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